# **Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability: Forest Management and Sustainability**

# **Enhance Your Managed Grounds or Community with <u>FREE</u> County Reforestation**

Forest Management & Sustainability Baltimore County EPS 9811 Van Buren Lane Cockeysville, MD 21030

#### **Contact Information**

Carrie Oberholtzer Natural Resource Specialist III coberholtzer@baltimore countymd.gov 410-887-5684

Trees planted through this program on private land incur no cost to landowners. Trees are credited towards the County's Chesapeake Bay TMDL Program.



For many of our native forest species, such as red oak, hickory, red maple, and sycamore, one two-foot diameter tree can intercept almost **8,000 gallons** of stormwater per year!

# **Visit Us Online**

To learn more about Baltimore County's Forest and Tree Programs visit us at: https://www.baltimorecountymd. gov/Agencies/environment/forest sandtrees/ Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) is interested in working with Baltimore County urban communities, Home Owner Associations (HOAs), and businesses to plant managed grounds, front yards, and road verges. Tree planting projects include <u>free</u> planting design, site preparation, the installation of County-purchased trees, and a year of maintenance.

#### **Tree Benefits**

Trees provide many benefits to home and land owners, such as increased property values and decreased energy bills. Trees also provide health benefits by reducing noise, air pollution, and exposure to UV rays. Environmental benefits of street trees include reducing stormwater runoff and reducing effects of climate change. Each year an acre of trees absorbs the amount of carbon produced by driving a car 26,000 miles. In addition, individual urban trees contain about four times more carbon than individual trees in forests.

# **How Does the Program Work?**

The County will work closely with community members and leaders, business owners, and HOAs to determine tree locations and community support. Trees are planted and then maintained by County-selected contractors for one year after planting. Maintenance activities will vary and will depend on the areas identified as suitable for planting. To ensure the long-term survival of the reforestation project, the County will also develop the planting plan and will conduct maintenance and replacement plantings, as needed, after the maintenance period ends.

Ideal tree locations include:

- Front yards and road verges at least 6 feet wide between the curb and sidewalk,
- 30 feet from any buildings or existing infrastructure, and
- Areas not located under overhead power lines.

# What Type of Trees Does the County Offer?

To maximize stormwater benefits, the County only plants large canopy trees under this program. Tree types include sycamore, maple, oak, black gum, hackberry, elm, and birch. Trees are 1.5 to 2 inches diameter at breast height when planted. Trees will be equipped with stakes, a mower guard, a bark protector, and mulch.

### **How to Get Started**

Contact EPS today by e-mailing or calling Carrie at <a href="coberholtzer@baltimorecountymd.gov">coberholtzer@baltimorecountymd.gov</a>, 410-887-5684. We can answer questions, take your information, and set up an initial meeting. We will then schedule a site assessment to determine feasibility of planting. If conditions are deemed favorable to ensure tree survival, EPS will develop a planting plan and initiate the planting. For community plantings, a community group or member must be willing to conduct a public outreach campaign.